

STATE OF IOWA

1921

REPORT OF THE

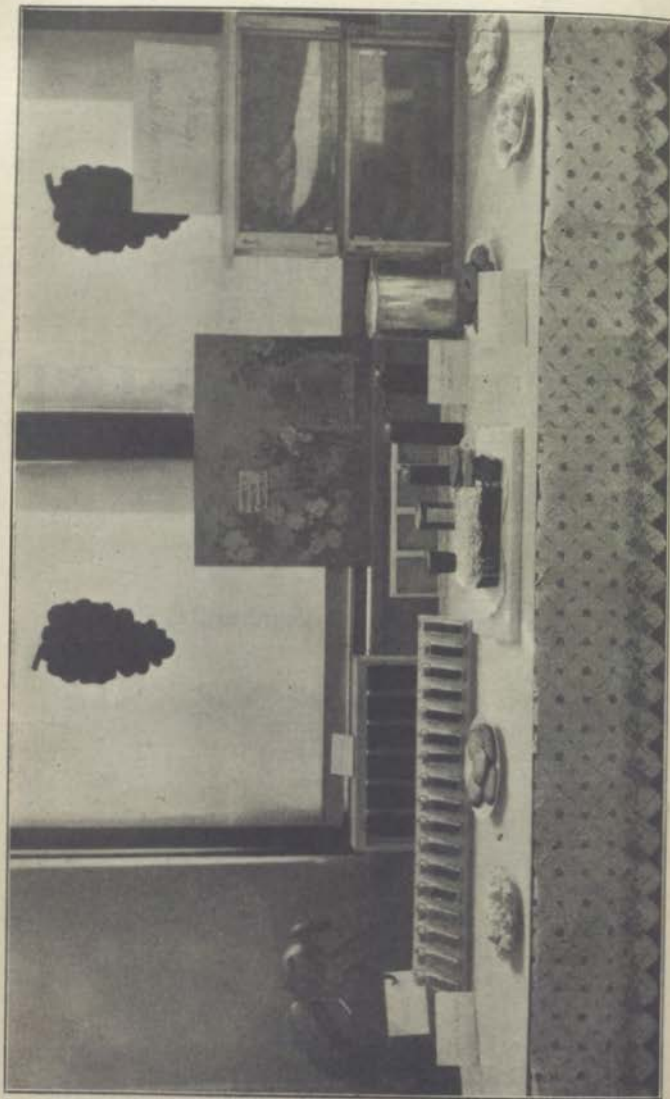
STATE APIARIST

FOR

The Year Ending December 31, 1921

F. B. PADDOCK, State Apiarist
Ames, Iowa

Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines



Honey display at Home Economics Day at Iowa State College.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HON. N. E. KENDALL, *Governor*—

SIR: In accordance with the law, Section 2, Chapter 289, Acts of the Thirty-seventh General Assembly, I herewith transmit to you my third annual report as State Apiarist, for the year ending December 31, 1921.

F. B. PADDOCK, *State Apiarist*.

Ames, Iowa, February 15, 1922.

STATE APIARIST REPORT

The subject of beekeeping has not received sufficient attention from people generally because the industry is so little understood. Throughout the entire state honey production is not a specialized industry but it is a part of many well managed farms. Of the beekeepers of Iowa, numbering over 5,000 according to our mailing list, there are but ten or twelve individuals who can call themselves "commercial beekeepers." Of the colonies only three to five per cent are owned by these professionals, the remainder of the bees are in the hands of "side-liners." This last class is composed of those who keep bees as an avocation or "back-letters" and the farmer beekeepers. Fully 85 per cent of the bees of Iowa are found on farms.

There are today in Iowa, three classes of honey producers, according to A. H. Dunn of Council Bluffs. He defines these as follows:

1. The small producer who sells direct to the consumer.
2. The large producer, who sells to the consumer and also to the merchant.
3. The large producer who sells in job lots.

He says these producers are distinct and independent in four ways: The first class has no relation to the general market conditions, and is not dependent upon marketing principles and salesmanship to dispose of his crop. The second class depends to quite an extent upon general market conditions. Whenever honey is disposed of to the retailers the problem of competition enters into his marketing. The third class of producers feels economic conditions, but has no direct relation to the market. He is practically a producer since the movement and disposal of his crop is in the hands of other agencies. These three classes of producers are related to each other, and they are also related in regard to the movement of the honey crop. The first class of producers can do a great deal to ruin the honey market by selling a cheap and poorly prepared product, and by cutting prices. In this way this class of producer makes it difficult for the other two classes to dispose of their crop. The second class of producer may make it difficult for the third class to dispose of his crop. In the second class we find a great temptation to sell to the consumer and to the retailer at the same price.

In Iowa we are concerned very largely with the first and second class producers defined by Mr. Dunn. The general problem of marketing in this state is clearly defined in the functions of these two classes.

The beekeeping industry of this state has apparently undergone a very material change if we are to take the figures of the last census. This census shows 138,319 colonies of bees in this state having a value of \$657,067 or an average value per colony of \$4.75. This census shows 2,840,025 pounds of honey produced at a total value of \$863,250. The average production per colony for the state was 20.5 pounds. The census apparently took into account only bees on farms, and we have every reason to believe that the census covered only a percentage of the total industry in this state. For instance, in Woodbury county there was listed but 3,768 colonies of bees. This county is the one commercial beekeeping county in the state, and it is very easy to account for 10,000 colonies of bees. These colonies, according to the census were valued at \$28,984, or an average value of \$7.69. While it is true that these figures are much above the state average, it still remains ridiculous as a price for colonies of bees in this vicinity. The production per colony, according to the census is 38.27 pounds for Woodbury county. Most of the beekeepers of this county consider their crop as very poor if they do not harvest much more than this amount. The census shows a total production of 144,303 pounds for Woodbury county, whereas in 1920 the actual production was approximately 750,000 pounds.

While the above case may be an extreme one, nevertheless, I am satisfied that the census figures are decidedly below what they should be in this case of the beekeeping industry of this state.

The Increased Honey Project has been continued during the past year in the following counties: Allamakee, Adams, Audubon, Clarke, Des Moines, Decatur, Guthrie, Harrison, Henry, Howard, Iowa, Johnson, Lee, Lucas, Mahaska, Mills, Mitchell, O'Brien, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Scott, Story, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, West Pottawattamie, Winneshiek and Woodbury.

This shows an increase in the number of counties in which the work was done over the previous year. This has been true in spite of the fact that the work has been on a more permanent basis in each county than during the previous year. As a matter of fact it has been impossible with the time available to give the work just attention in every county. Wherever deemed advisable.

the project work has been correlated with Beekeepers' Associations, and in some instances new associations have been organized. The work this year has been built up very largely around demonstration apiary work.

As a result of this special work over 200 Italian queens have been introduced into colonies of black bees. The value of this stock improvement work can hardly be estimated.

Wherever consistent with the welfare of the beekeepers of the county, we have urged the organization of a local association. At the beginning of this year there were twenty county beekeepers associations. During this year associations have been organized in six additional counties.

Generally speaking, the County Associations have not been as active during the past year as formerly. In view of this fact the State Association has been more active in rendering assistance to the beekeepers of the state, but during the coming year it is anticipated that the activity will swing back to the county associations.

During this year demonstration projects have been continued in Lee, Van Buren and Guthrie counties. In addition to those counties in which the work was not completed, demonstration apiaries have been continued in the following counties: Pocahontas, Mills, Pottawattamie and Henry. In addition to the work which was started last year, work has been started in the following new counties: O'Brien, Allamakee, Lucas, Ringgold and Decatur.

The value of the demonstration apiary work is certainly very great. It is possible by this method to show conclusively to the people the value of modern beekeeping methods. In every instance the demonstration apiary is taken out of the owner's apiary, and the colonies are his selection.

In two counties, Pottawattamie and Harrison, very successful summer picnics were held this summer. In both of these cases the attendance was very large, 150 in the case of Pottawattamie county. The beekeepers seem to thoroughly enjoy these picnics. Next year more importance will be placed upon holding summer picnics in many colonies.

The bee disease control work was conducted along the recognized line of educational effort. Wherever disease was a menace it is our aim to arrange for lectures and demonstrations through the County Agent. In practically every instance this method has given very satisfactory results.

There is a great demand for eradication work. The beekeepers of the state feel that their case should be given individual attention, and it is somewhat difficult to work these special requests through channels of the County Agent's office. During the past year it was not possible to meet these special requests but it is hoped that during next year this difficulty may be overcome, and that we can very materially enlarge our efforts in disease control work.

It is very evident that the vast majority of the bees in this state are either Black or Hybrid bees, and the introducing of Italian bees means improving the methods of beekeeping which is a step in itself in the control of disease.

The Beekeepers' Bulletin has been continued throughout the year, and the results obtained from this work have been highly satisfactory. An attempt is made to bring to the attention of the beekeepers topics of timely and practical interest. It has been found very valuable to have this contact with the beekeepers of the state.

The Beekeepers' Short Course was held in connection with the Farm and Home Week this past winter. While the enrollment was not large, there was an average attendance of forty-five per session. We heard very favorable comment on the part of those in attendance, and also from out of the state speakers.

The close relation between the State Association and Iowa State College has been continued. The State Association has made every effort to encourage the activities of the Extension Service. They have fostered disease control work, organization work, and demonstration apiary work.

The State Apiarist being secretary-treasurer of the State Association has been able to render a very decided service for the beekeepers who were members of the Association. This past year the State Association undertook the co-operative buying of supplies. One hundred sixty beekeepers made inquiry concerning this work, and 115 orders were placed. These orders amounted to approximately \$5,100. On this work \$1,300 were saved to the 115 beekeepers. Through this one effort alone the State Association feels that it has more than justified its existence.

The State Apiarist attended the meeting of the Illinois Beekeepers' Association held at Springfield in December. A paper on "Better Queens" was presented at this meeting. The expenses of the trip were paid by the Illinois association.

The State Apiarist attended the Beekeepers' Short Course held at Manhattan, Kansas, during the Farm and Home Week. A series of three lectures were delivered on their program.

As Director of the American Honey Producers' League, the State Apiarist attended a meeting of the Directors in conjunction with the Chicago Northwestern Beekeepers' Association at Chicago in December.

As Chairman of the Section on Agriculture of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, the State Apiarist presided at the meeting in Chicago in December.

Following is a summary of the work to November 1, 1920, as required by Section 2, Chapter 289, Thirty-seventh General Assembly:

Number of apiaries visited.....	155
Number of demonstrations held.....	76
Number of lectures given.....	134
Number of apiaries examined on request.....	81

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Also Report of the Convention of the Iowa Beekeepers' Association
in Des Moines, December 8-9, 1922

F. B. PADDOCK, State Apiarist
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